NOTICE.

The Harrison Mutual Burial Association's fourth anniversary will be on July 15 next. The Board of Control has called its fourth assessment. This will be delinquent after July 15, 1906.

J. H. TOWNSEND, Secretary.

READ THE ADVERTISER
WORLD'S NEWS DAILY.

HAWAII SUPPLIES SISAL TO PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

HAWAIIAN SISAL COMPANY'S PLANT NURSERY AT SISAL, OAHU.

Yucatan Variety Found Inferior to Hawaiian Product--One Hundred Bales to Coast.

That an important phase of small farming is successful in the Hawaiian Islands is evidenced by the fact that the Hawaiian Sisal Company's plantation on this island has become the distributing point for sisal plants which are being sent to many portions of the world. What makes this fact of far-reaching importance to the people of this Territory is that government experts, after examining the products from Yucatan and Hawaii, determined that the local sisal was the better quality, and the Hawaiian cultivated plants better adapted to the climatic conditions of the Philippines.

As a result of this selection, the Hawaiian Sisal Company shipped thirty-six tons of sisal plants on the transport Thomas, which left here June 23 for Manila, and will ship thirty-five tons more on the transport Sheridan, due here on Thursday from San Francisco en route to the Philippines.

All these plants are consigned to the United States Agricultural Bureau of the Philippines and will be distributed to planters in the archipelago. The bureau will start a nursery for sisal plants and do all they can to promote interest in the cultivation of sisal. The plants are the kind known as agave rigida sisalana. This variety is found to be superior to the Yucatan variety, or agave rigida olongata, which differs from the Hawaiian kind in having lateral spines on the leaves, while the sisalana variety has but the terminal spines.

The Yucatan variety does not produce the quantity or quality as the Hawaiian variety. There are fewer operations necessary in preparing the leaves of the Hawaiian sisal than that of Yucatan. The edges of the Yucatan leaves have to be trimmed, an operation not necessary with the Hawaiian product.

The sisal company is preparing 100 bales, of 550 pounds each, of the finest fiber ever shipped from any port in the world, to be despatched to San Francisco on the American-Hawaiian steamship Nebraskan about Monday. This big consignment goes to the Tubbs Cordage company of San Francisco. The prevailing price for Yucatan fiber is 6⅞ cents per pound, but the Hawaiian product is so far superior to the Yucatan article that a larger price will undoubtedly be obtained. Special pains have been taken with this shipment by Superintendent Weinrich, who is in charge of the company's plantation, and Mr. Weedon, who is one of the pioneers of the sisal company.

BY-PRODUCTS OF SISAL.

Following is the conclusion of Mr. Weinrich's article on sisal, the part which was crowded out of the Jubilee number:

In the scutching of the leaves, on account of the imperfections of the machinery, a certain amount of the fiber is wasted. This fiber can be recovered and made into a material, which is used for the stuffing of mattresses. This is an excellent article for tropical countries, being light and cool.

These short fibers can also be used for making paper. This paper iss similar to Manila paper and can be used for wraping puroses.

Besides these short fibers, there is another roduct, the pulp, which makes excellent fertilizer.

The juice, coming from the leaves in the process of scutching, is a very strong acid, so much so that it attacks the iron, woodwork, cement, leather, etc., of the machine. As yet no definite use has been found for this juice, but hopes are entertained of its becoming available for some purpose.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT SISAL

At the present time no rope is being made in these Islands, the cleaned gber being all exported. It is hoped that in time a cordage works will be established here and the product manufactured into rope for local and export use.

It will be well to emphasize the uses of sisal fiber. It has its principal use in the making of small rope for farm use, binder twine, lariat rope, etc., but is not adapted for ships' use.

A very large percentage of sisal fiber is used in making binder twine. The great mistake has been in trying to use sisal rope for the running rigging of ships; the salt water has a deteriorating effect on this fiber and is therefore not adapted for work of that kind.

In Mexico the juice of a plant, similar to the Hawaiian variety, is used for making soap, while another plant, slightly different, furnishes a juice which, being allowed to ferment, makes the famous Mexican drink called pulque. Still another variety furnishes a juice which, when fermented and distilled, makes the liquor called mescal. It is estimated that fifty million bottles of this liquor are consumed yearly in the city of Mexico.

Two plants most commonly seen here in the gardens of Honolulu are species of the variety Agave Americana. These are commonly called the century plant from the supposition that they send up their flowers about once in a century, while in reality the plants send up their flowers and then die within a period of about fifteen years. The most common of these species is a large plant with fleshy leaves of a dark blue color, the leaves beautifully curved and with lateral spines. The sister to this plant has exactly the same characteristics, except that, instead of a solid blue, yellow ribbons of different widths run the length of the leaf.

PROSPECTS OF THE FIBER INDUSTRY.

In these islands are thousands of acres of land lying idle which might be used for the cultivation of fibers. The good price ,the steady demand, and the excellent quality of fiber produced, certainly point out that the fiber industry here is one of coming importance.

We will consider the fibers adapted to this country. Of such is the sansevieria zylanica, a most remarkable fiber, very much resembling the pineapple fiber. It is slong and round in structure, has a decided sheen and is very strong. At present this fiber is not used as a cordage fiber, being too fine and too expensive, but could be used for making fabric, which would be equal to the celebrated pina silk, the value of which is so well known. A fiber industry of this kind could be established here and in conjunction with it a textile mill could be built for the working up of this product.

This would create a new industry here in the line of manufacturing. There is no doubt as to the adaptability of sansevieria to this climate. The plant is seen growing all over the islands, and profusely in the gardens of Honolulu. In a period of from two to three years, it is ready to be cut. It multiplies very rapidly and is easily harvested and milled. When one considers the many things in favor of this fiber, it seems remarkable that it has not been turned into a commercial enterprise before this.

One of the other fiber-yielding plants that grows very well here is the fucraia gigantea. This plant grows wild, and is said to be indigenous. The Hawaiian name is malina, which is the attempt of the natives to say Manila, a fiber with which they must have been familiar. This plant produces a fiber called pita, which is a long fine fiber, but does not have the strength of sisal or sausevieria. This fucraia plant is very common in the gardens of Honolulu, at times growing to a height of ten feet. The plant very much resembles the sisal, except that the leaves are much longer and broader, and of a darker green. In the island of Mauritius, one of the principal industries is the cultivation of this plant for its fiber, it being exported for making inexpensive rope.

Another fiber that promises well for this country is the New Zealand flax. The production of this fiber is one of the important industries of New Zealand. This fiber is produced from the plant phormiumtenax. The plant grows readily and yields a large quantity of fiber, which is used in the manufacture of cordage and textiles. A cloth, which resembles linen duck, is made from the fiber.

One of the native fibers here that has been used for many years, the olona, is considered one of the best in the world, although very scarce. The fibre comes from a shrub, which grows in the deep ravines of all the islands. It is considered one of the strongest fibers known, and has been prized by the natives from time immemorial for the making of fish lines and fish nets. It has the peculiar quality of withstanding the effects of water and thus seems particularly adapted for fish lines and for cordage used in or near the water.

One of these fibers that has not been taken advantage of, is the pineapple fiber. This is grown very extensively in Java and the far East for cordage and textile purposes, principally the latter. Everyone knows of the celebrated pina cloth which is made from this fiber. In these islands there are tons and tons of pineapple leaves going to waste each year, but that phase of the pineapple industry having never been given any attention. The fiber obtained from these leaves would add to the financial interests of this splendid industry, which has done so much to improve conditions in this country. The best quality of this fiber is obtained from the pineapple plant, which does not bear fruit, but is grown especially for the fiber quality. Splendid specimens of this fiber, as long as four feet, are obtained.

Another fiber which promises well for this country is the Ramie or China grass. This has been grown here for many years, but not commercially, owing to the difficulty of its extraction. Now that machines have been perfected for this work, it would seem natural that a commercial enterprise should be made of this fiber. It is used for cordage purposes and for textiles. It is considered the most remarkable of all the commercial fibers for its adaptability, etc. Large quantities are imported yearly from the far East. There are other fibers that grow well in this country, which have never created a market for themselves.

The best all round fiber in the world is the Manila hemp, derived from the plant mustatextilis, which belongs to the wild banana or plantain, the fruit of this plant being inedible. Volumes could be written on the virtue of this fiber, but it suffices here to say that on account of its strength, its length, its color and its adaptability to all kinds of cordage, it stands first in the fiber world. Strands to the length of twelve feet of this fiber are not uncommon.

At the age of a about eighteen months the banana plant is cut down and the fibers extracted from the stem of the plant. At present this fiber extraction is done only by hand, there being no machine made for this work. It is not unreasonable to expect that one will, in the near future, be invented which will take the place of this slow and expensive process, as many men are now working on this problem. A very crude apparatus is used for this extracting, which consists of a fixed horizontal knife, the fiber being pressed upon it by a parallel bar. The stem of the plant, which has been cut into narrow strips, is repeatedly drawn between the horizontal knife and bar, the fiber eventually coming out cleaned. Through this crude process much of the plant is wasted, it being estimated that only about one pound of fiber is extracted from each plant. One native is able to clean about twelve pounds of fiber per day.

Owing to the first position among fibers of the Manila, the demand for it far exceeds the supply, this condition bringing about a high price. From the waste fibers Manila wrapping paper is made. From the fine, inner fibers of the plant the celebrated abaca cloth is made, which very much resembles silk.

The Manila fiber is used for all kinds of cordage, but principally for the manufacture of rope for ships, for transmitting power for well drilling, and also for hausers or tow-lines. From old Manila rope oakum is made. The most interesting fact about Manila hemp is that, weight for weight, is it stronger than steel.

The possibilities of raising Manila fiber in this country simply depend upon the proper selection of land. A rich volcanic soil, with regular rainfall and a hot, moist atmosphere is what is required. Such conditions are found to exist in various parts of these islands. These conditions exist very largely in the Philippine Islands, where this plant grows wild. Recently various plantations have been started for its cultivation. It is said that the dividends yielded in these plantations average about thirty per cent., three thousand acres being the average size of a plantation.

When one realizes the possibilities of the fiber culture in these islands, it certainly seems that everything is in our favor. Good lands are lying ready to be used, men of capital are glad of another avenue of investment, proofs are many to show that these fibers will pay for their planting if given the proper chance, and the markets stand ready to receive our products.

NOTICE.

ANY WOMAN OR GIRL NEEDING help or advice, is invited to communicate, either in person or by letter, with Ensign L. Anderson, matron of the Salvation Army Woman's Industrial Home, No. 1680 King street.